China's auto electronics

China's automotive-related semiconductor consumption is projected to see a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 28 percent to reach $1.45b in 2007, up from $416m in 2002, according to iSuppli Corp, and China's automotive chip market is expected to account for 10% of global consumption.

"China will grow to be the world's largest manufacturing base of automotive entertainment systems by 2007. For example, China's production of auto stereo systems will account for an estimated 39% of global output in 2007."

"Meanwhile, demand for other types of automotive electronics systems will expand sharply in China. Among these parts are engine control units (ECU), electronic dashboard instrument clusters, remote keyless entry (RKE) systems, antilock braking systems and airbags."

"Furthermore, during the next few years, new electronics products will emerge and demand for these systems will further advance China's capabilities in producing automotive-related semiconductors," the report said. "As for applied automotive systems, auto stereos comprise the largest single application for ICs, accounting for 72% of China's automotive semiconductor consumption in 2002."

Particle science centre

The Industrial Centre of Particle Science and Engineering (ICPSE), based at the University of Leeds, combines two research groups — of Leeds and Sheffield universities. It will be led by Prof. Richard Williams at Leeds, as Centre Director, and Professor Mike Hounslow of Sheffield University. It is one of six such centres in Yorkshire, the others covering polymers, green chemistry, biomaterials & tissue engineering, stem cell biology, and materials analysis & research. The Centre has a research base of more than 120 people, and access to more than £20m of equipment and resources and will provide R&D services, strategic, technical and legal support to companies in the materials, chemical, food, pharmaceutical, water and mining industries.

Contact: s.lawson@leeds.ac.uk

The director of the new Industrial Centre of Particle Science & Engineering (ICPSE), Professor Richard Williams (above left), with co-director Professor Mike Hounslow, commented "Particle science and technology is a growth engine for the economy being central to development of consumer, healthcare and personal products using established methods and new techniques based on nanotechnology.